

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) Method of preparing foam from a milk-based alimentary liquid for preparing a drink ~~such as a cappuccino with using~~ a device comprising a frame including a support for a container, said support being associated with heating means for heating said alimentary liquid contained in said container when the container is disposed on said support, mechanical stirring means extending at least partially into said container, means for driving said stirring means, and control and command means arranged for automatically controlling the command of said heating means and said drive means, said method comprising the steps of:

a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid in the container associated with said stirring means;

b) commanding, via the control and command means said heating means associated with said support ~~for heating to heat~~ said quantity of alimentary liquid ~~and bring it in proximity to or at a predetermined temperature level~~ while commanding said driving means for said mechanical stirring means at a first predetermined stirring speed, lower than the foam generating speed for stirring said quantity of alimentary liquid; and

c) commanding, via the control and command means said mechanical stirring means for stirring said quantity of liquid at a second predetermined stirring speed, effective to make said liquid foam.

Claim 2 (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the control and command means are arranged so as to maintain said quantity of liquid at said a desired temperature during step c).

Claim 3 (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control and command means are arranged so as to adapt the quantity of heating energy supplied during step b) as a function of said quantity of liquid.

Claim 4 (currently amended) Method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the adaptation by the control and command means of the quantity of heating energy supplied is achieved by adjusting at least one of the heating power and/or the heating time.

Claim 5 (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein during step c) the control and command means are ~~arranged so as to drive~~ the stirring means in a discontinuous manner.

Claim 6 (currently amended) Method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control and command means are arranged so as to drive the stirring means with a stirring interruption frequency ranging from approximately 0.3 to 0.5 Hz.

Claim 7 (currently amended) Method according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein said stirring means comprise a rotating stirring element, ~~characterized in that~~ the control and command means ~~are arranged so as to drive~~ said rotating stirring element so that it changes rotational direction after each interruption.

Claim 8 (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 7~~, wherein said second predetermined speed is at least twice, ~~preferably at least three times, higher~~ said first predetermined speed.

Claim 9 (currently amended) Method according to of claim 8, wherein the stirring means comprises a rotating stirring element, ~~characterized in that~~ the first stirring speed is comprised between 500 and 1500 rpm ~~and preferably of the order of 800 rpm~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims claim 8 or 9~~, wherein the stirring means comprises a rotating stirring element, ~~characterized in that~~ said second stirring speed is comprised between 3000 and 10000 rpm ~~and preferably of the order of 5000 rpm~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended) Device for preparing foam from a milk-based alimentary liquid for preparing a drink-such as a cappuccino,-including comprising a container for receiving said alimentary liquid, a frame including a support for said container, said support being associated with a heater~~heating means~~ for heating said alimentary liquid contained in said container when the container is disposed on said support, a stirrer~~stirring means~~ extending at least partially into said container, means for driving said stirrer~~stirring means~~, and control means arranged for controlling said heater~~heating means~~ and said drive means, ~~characterized in that~~ said frame is connected to a mobile cover extending above said container, in that said drive means are disposed in said cover and in that said cover is mobile between a first position in which said drive means are coupled to said stirrer~~stirring means~~ and a second position in which said drive means are uncoupled from said stirrer~~stirring means~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended) Device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control means are arranged for heating a quantity of liquid to bring it in proximity to a desired temperature level while stirring said quantity of liquid at a first speed during a first phase and for stirring said quantity of liquid at a second speed higher than the first speed during a second phase.

Claim 13 (currently amended) Device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control means are arranged for heating said quantity of liquid during the second phase.

Claim 14 (currently amended) Device according to claim 12-~~or 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control means include selection means for adapting the quantity of heating energy supplied during the first phase as a function of said quantity of liquid.

Claim 15 (currently amended) Device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said selection means include a plurality of control keys, each of the keys corresponding to the supply of a quantity of energy for a determined quantity of liquid.

Claim 16 (currently amended) Device according to ~~claims-claim~~ claim 11-~~to 15~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said container is removably mounted on said support.

Claim 17 (currently amended) Device according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the container is associated with a cover and in that said cover carries said stirring means.

Claim 18 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 17, characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~stirring means are~~ stirrer is formed by a rod including a stirring head at its distal end.

Claim 19 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 18, characterized in that wherein~~ said rod is rotatably mounted in said cover.

Claim 20 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims 11 to 19~~ claim 18, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the stirring head extends in proximity to the bottom of the container.

Claim 21 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 20, characterized in that wherein~~ the drive means are coupled to said ~~stirring means~~ stirrer by a friction coupling.

Claim 22 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 21, characterized in that it further includes~~ comprising locking means for holding said cover respectively in said first and second positions.

Claim 23 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 22, characterized in that wherein~~ said control means are disposed in said frame, and in that said control means are connected to control keys arranged on one surface of said cover.

Claim 24 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 23, characterized in that wherein~~ said drive means further include a motor with two directions of rotation.

Claim 25 (currently amended) Device according to ~~any of claims claim 11 to 13, characterized in that wherein~~ the control means include temperature detection means and in that

the control means are arranged for controlling said drive means in accordance with at least two speed levels as a function of the temperature level detected.

Claim 26 (new) Method of preparing foam from a milk-based liquid for preparing a drink comprising the steps of:

- a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid in a container having a stirrer;
- b) heating the alimentary liquid while stirring the liquid at a first predetermined stirring speed, lower than the foam generating speed for stirring said quantity of alimentary liquid; and
- c) stirring said liquid at a second predetermined stirring speed, effective to make said liquid foam.